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SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 20, 1954

To office in morning. Wrote and sent the following telegram to the Department:

"SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 151.

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"I discussed with Maurice Schumann last night Laniel's position on EDC ratification. He had just spent two hours with Laniel on this subject before talking to me. (Aside from official functions Schumann is close personal friend PRIMIN.)

"Schumann states Laniel categorical in determination try force vote EDC before Easter holidays. Claims he argued him out of wavering attitude regarding any alterations in text or further conditions, especially prolongation eighteen months provisional period. However Laniel firm on necessity previously imposed conditions all being met before and not after vote. Those Schumann referred to are: (1) Saar problem; (2) UK-EDC Association; (3) Democratic control over army; (4) US Assurances.

"Re (1), I told him only way handle Saar speedily with any chance success was by direct conversation between Bidault and Adenauer on principles, with proviso agreement not effective in event failure French ratification. Schumann said he thought French Government and Parliament would be satisfied with agreement on principles, technical details to be worked out following vote.

"Re (2), he thinks this presents no difficulty.

"Re (3), Laniel at present reluctant to accept formula for European elected assembly upon which we have been consulting with Monnet and others and which will satisfy Mollet. Laniel thinks it will antagonize some already doubtful parliamentarians. (I trust he will come to realize that intriguing for doubtful votes may cost him the Socialist support.) Personally I do not worry much about this

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point. Laniel will have to take it if his own cabinet agrees. This requires no action from Washington and the negotiation is highly secret and still tentative. I had discussed this with Bidault in Berlin and believe he will support it.

"Re (4), this is the only one requiring US consideration now. It is quite apparent that both Mollet and Laniel attach more importance to it than to anything else. I think they would be fully satisfied with Presidential declaration such as Department seems to favor. I told Schuman nothing of possible language, but said subject had long been discussed, and, quite frankly, lack of decision by his government on bringing EDC to vote had made impossible any final US position. He understood this as have other French leaders with whom I have recently spoken on the subject. I added, telling him I was speaking on my own responsibility, that I apprehended no insuperable obstacle to a US administrative declaration lying within the limitation of executive powers which might be given to French Government or to NATO at time of US choosing. That choice would depend on French EDC policy. I told him quite brutally that I believed the lack of confidence in the US over the French willingness and determination to bring EDC to a vote had forced the cautious procedure I had described. I told him I was sorry to add that Laniel's contradictory attitudes toward EDC last year and conflicting reports even about his present intentions had aroused considerable doubts in the United States as to the direction he might hereafter take. Schumann answered that Laniel was aware of the existence of this unfavorable impression.

"In further reference to the above Schumann said that he and his colleagues were aware of this lack of confidence and had no criticism to make of it, but that it was essential for a US decision of this sort soon to be prepared and ready for use in the entire discretion of the US Government.

"I might add that in my personal judgment Schumann thought he was faithfully reflecting Laniel's views. However, his interpretation of them is in conflict

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with reports of conversation Thursday between PriMin and Belgian Ambassador, and yesterday between PriMin and David Schoenbrun. In both of these he allegedly was wavering in his determination. Until Bidault has conferred with him, the other members of the Cabinet and certain Parliamentarians the political weather will remain unpredictable.

"In view of the above I strongly recommend that before the Secretary's departure for Caracas a position on assurances be agreed within our government but on no account its content be allowed for the present to become known outside a most restricted US circle. BRUCE."

Had a letter today from Dean Acheson, who is in Washington. He spoke appreciatively of my book. (It seems to be having something of a sale in Paris.) He said there was gossip about my going to Italy as Ambassador. A typical example of how unrealistic people are - not Dear. - who start such completely unfounded rumors.

We left Orly at 3:40 on Pan American. Favoring winds blessed us, and we landed at Ciampino airport, Rome, at 6:30, where Ashley and Jim met us. British Ambassadors are supplied with Rolls Royce cars, in one of which we were conducted elegantly to the Villa Wolkonsky, formerly the German Embassy, taken over by the British after their own had been partially destroyed. It is a huge, ugly structure in the slum district, but very comfortable, with fine terraces and extensive gardens. The rooms are colossal.

Diana Cooper is staying here but she has grippe and we saw her for only a few minutes tonight. The Ex-Queen of Spain, the Torlonias (her daughter and son-in-law), the d'Ormessons (French Ambassador to the Vatican), and a lot of others came for dinner.

Jim has fixed up one room as her study and has hung in it her collection of portraits and mementoes of her beautiful actress great-grandmother, Miss Herbert.

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These Rossetti period pieces are very effective.

In the ballroom -- added by the Germans in the most North German Lloyd Steamship taste -- the Clarkes showed a gripping movie, with mayhem, shootings, and secret service intrigues.

The Ex-Queen is jolly and friendly, a little heavy on the hoof, and with charming manners. Her daughter, the Infanta, is a sweetie, and there was also a good-looking débutante granddaughter. Both the daughter and granddaughter curtsied to the Ex-Queen on her entrance and departure.

It has been raining in Rome for almost two weeks, an unusual occurrence for this time of year. In the South there have been devastating floods. In Parliament, the investiture vote on Scelba is still pending. The debates are stormy. The Communists jeer, shout, and raise a tumult in the Chamber, while calling rolling strikes throughout the country. Ashley thinks Scelba will probably get in. He is a strong supporter of EDC.

Clare Luce is being vilified by the Communists. In public, they say she brings bad luck, in private that she has "the evil eye". Superstitious people like some of the Italians take these charges seriously.

Jim has a superb bulldog, Gabriel. His two projecting fangs give him a savage look, belied by his amiable demeanor.

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B/EB

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 21, 1954

Bright, sunny day, with temperature about 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Puzzling over the Italian papers, we discern that Foster is being assailed by Republican isolationists for having agreed to Chinese Communist representation at the Geneva conference on Asia. I thought the dastardly China Lobby would go after him. This attitude is intolerable. The Republican Party is divided on so many questions that even a Democrat is alarmed over the potential effects of its schisms on the country's welfare.

I took a walk this morning through the park of this villa. It is amazing to find in a city such a private area. A section of Claudius' aqueduct runs through it. There are three greenhouses, peacocks preening themselves on the lawn, odd bits of ancient statuary dug up at different periods from underlying villas and temples, colossal trees, fountains galore, and a club-size swimming pool, built during the war to commemorate the stay of Hitler and Von Mackensen with the Bismarcks. Otto von Bismarck was Ambassador. I remember him well in Washington when he was a young man, highly educated, intense, with an unfortunate habit of focussing his conversation on you and then bedewing you through his somewhat separated front teeth. I only met his Swedish wife on one occasion. I think her name was Anne Marie. She was beautiful and helped, it is said, the Berlin-Rome axis by becoming one of the mistresses of that unfortunate swordsman Count Ciano.

Ashley drove us to Frascati for lunch. In a trattoria we had a good fettuchini and excellent veal, with a local amber-colored, slightly sour wine. Dominating Frascati, where the population was today noisily celebrating a carnival -- and noise is almost the leading feature of Italian life -- is the spacious Villa Aldobrandini, still occupied by one of the family, who has a German wife. Many of the old Roman families are said still to be [illegible] sentiment, and

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largely unregarded, income tax system must help. Countess Pallavicini, who dined here last night, is reputed to entertain much more lavishly for her friends than do the Government officials in honoring foreign dignitaries. It does seem strange, in a country where the disparity between rich and poor is so great, to hear and even witness the blatant display of great wealth, evidenced by yachts, jewels, and various other visible signs of it.

BI-EB

I had bought a book in Berlin titled The Renaissance Reader. The introduction by James Bruce Ross and Mary McLaughlin is brilliant. In contrasting the uses to which gold might be put, Thomas More, for his Utopia, desired it be used to make chains for slaves and chamberpots for citizens, but in Europe he found gold and silver were "the blood of the whole body social".

Actually, the great flow of precious metals from the Spanish-American possessions was corrupting, and the chief obstacle to social and religious reforms.

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Tonight Diana Cooper, Patrick Leigh-Fermoy, Jane Cross (a newspaper writer) and Mr. Marshall (famous English theatrical producer) came to dinner with the Clarkes. Leigh-Fermoy had a fine record as an aviator and clandestine operator during the war and has just published a successful book. He is a mine of knowledge and it was fun to hear him denouncing the later crusaders as vandals, scoundrels, and devastators of Byzantine civilization. Marshall has just returned from Israel, where he had produced one of the English classical plays. He derived a gloomy impression of conditions there; insufficient food, discontent, lack of initiative (surprising to me, but he ascribed it to the climate and the absence of competition with other races). He says many settlers, especially the Indian Jews, wish to emigrate to their countries of origin.

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